VOL. I

The GAVEL

COPY 5

Conferences Held

Fitchburg Teachers College at present is a popular conference institution. Last week we had the pleasure of welcoming the representatives to the W.A.A. conference. Thursday the regular monthly meeting of the Presidents of the Massachusetts Teachers Colleges took place. In the afternoon, the Presidents met with Dr. Franklin Baker of Teachers College, Columbia University, whom we are privileged to have as guest here for three days.

Today - Tomorrow

Friday and Saturday the Massachusetts Teachers Colleges' English teachers committees on steering and syllabus are to meet for the conference.

A Poverty Party

Keep those old clothes that you wore to the Country Fair. Palmer Hall is giving a Poverty Party to the school Tuesday night. A Poverty Party seemed in keeping with the financial status of the dorm; perhaps with the whole school. Everybody is supposed to wear a costume and prizes will be given for the best ones. Due to our extreme poverty the orchestra is a gift but they reputed to be very good. The entertainment is to be something different, very different, in fact. Cider will be served for refreshments, but everybody is asked to bring his own cup. You can't drink from the keg, and don't get caught bringing a bucket or a gallon jug. We want everyone to come and have a good enough time so that he will think about it all during Thanksgiving. Maybe we'll be rich enough next year to give a Prosperity Party if we find the "corner".

FRESHMAN ELECTION!!

Pres. Paul Goodwin, Gloucester
V.Pres. Mildred Poland, Fitchburg
Sec. Ruth Marcy, Leominster
Treas. Kalervo Kansanniva, Maynard.

Dr. Baker Addresses English Class

"The fundamental, normal, average universal life, or exactly describing what people are, makes great literature," said Dr. Franklin T. Baker, speaking informally to the senior English major class in Miss Nixon's room Thursday afternoon.

Miss Nixon, a former student of Dr. Baker introduced the speaker, remarking that she learned most of what she knows of literature from him.

Dr. Baker is head of the English Department of Teachers College, Columbia University, and a specialist in the field of elementary and secondary English. He is here to advise in re-working the courses in these fields in the Teachers Colleges of Massachusetts.

Although elderly, Dr. Baker's spirit belied his age. His chatty talk gave evidence of his wide background and was enjoyed immensely by the seniors.

There are four elements which Dr. Baker searches for in his novel reading: 1. Illusion, or on the part of the reader 'a willing suspension of disbelief'; 2. the theme; 3. the type; 4. the quality.

The speaker illustrated these elements with discussions of many novels.

There follows a few of the keen criticisms which Dr. Baker made:-

O.Henry wrote about a dozen good stories - the rest of his works are sheer trash.

If you do not discover the illusion, the story has failed.

"Tobacco Road"-a current drama playing to enthusiastic crowds on Broadway-is a horrible, disgustingly unreal drama.

Modern fiction tends to present some theme of interpretation which amounts to a criticism of life.

If a story is inevitable, it is the test of a good novel.

If nothing from a book remains in your memory after reading it, the book is a failure - either the author's or reader's fault.

WINTER SPORTS

You've heard of the seven hills of Rome, but perhaps you have not heard of the seven hills of Fitchburg - we have them. On one of these hills - Pearl Hill, adjoining the Edgerly Playground - there has been built a ski track. Take a look over there someday. The trees and brush have been shinned out, and all that is lacking is the snow - but it won't be long now!

This publication suggests the addition of another project - a combination hockey and skating rink. The labor and materials are conveniently available. Our start in hockey was rather hopeful - the spirit was there.

What's that I hear? A Winter Sports Carnival! Can't the M.A.A and the W.A.A. get together on this. Action is the word.

OUR APPRECIATION

The spontaneous response to "THE GAVEL" has passed the fondest hopes of the staff of this publication. Frankly, our aim is to give the Fitchburg Teachers College a newspaper which honestly chronicles events and opinions of the school. Have we? We would like to know. We assert again, state your opinion we'll print it. To the faculty, student body, and to those responsible for collections we say "thank you" to one and all.

"GAVEL" TO BACK M. A. A. PROGRAM

The attempt of the M. A. A. to promote college spirit at sports events is not to be under-rated. Our ambitious basketball schedule means entire student body cooperation. Be prepared for the call to rally around the "Green and White". Here is the "GAVEL'S" pledge to serve!

"THEY DONE HIM WRONG"

"A spy in our topee!" a Mohawk lookout shouted;
Amidst the anticipation, the tumult mounted.
With paddles high and shrill of cry
The Mohawks swooped upon the spy.

The paddles they descended
Upon this poor lamented
And presto! The "Gav"-president's pelt
Was added to the Mohawk belt.

-- R. H.

THUMB-NAIL BIOGRAPHY

Leonard Wood...Harvard '31... N.E.Conservatory of Music '33... conductor of Arlington Community Symphony (60 members)...at F.T.C. two days a week to work with men's glee club, with the college orchestra, and with the Junior High students.

To quote Mr. Wood in regard to the men's glee club, "We want to do some Bach, become acquainted with some of the finer works, and have a good time. In due course, we may take a trip or two and get some competition."

Good luck to your efforts, Mr. Wood.

ASSEMBLY NOTE

A. H. Wilson will be the speaker December 4 at assembly. His subject is entitled "Hoop Skirts and Horse-Car Days". It will be a not too serious presentation of the life in the "good ol' days". Who knows? It may daze us!

THANKSGIVING NOTE

The "GAVEL" staff extends to the faculty and student body its best wishes for a pleasant and full Thanksgiving holiday. "Aw, please, Mom, just one more helping".

CLUBS

MEN'S GLEE CLUB

Many new numbers have been secured by the glee club, among which are some negro spiritual songs. Wait until you hear "Ken" Murdock and the rest of those basses carry their parts in this type of song. Great headway is being made at rehearsals under the leadership of Mr Wood, who, by the way, has many fine ideas about glee club presentations. The club is now working on a Christmas program.

--ooOoo--

[illegible]

Last Monday night, six new braves passed through the Initiatory Degree of the Mohawk Tribal rites. The young braves are Carmen Buono, Felix Heins, John Stacevich, Raymond Pepi, Allan Kompanon, and George Carey.

To make way for the addition of Holy Cross College on our basketball schedule, the Mohawk Club has given the date set for the Mohawk Play, February 16, to the H. A. A. The play will be staged on Saturday, February 9, and as before, will follow the Valentine Dance.

Plans are also being made to take part in the College's latest feature - "Stunt Night"- for the benefit of the "Saxifrage".

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TYPOGRAPHY - A Promising New Club

The Typography Club is past the formative stage, and from all indications, promises to be a power on the campus.

Two members, John Cogoli and Willard Davis are at present engaged in designing an emblem for the club. We may expect to see it displayed on the bulletin board any day now announcing its bi-weekly meetings.

Mr. Livermore, who was retired two years ago, was made an honorary member at the Tuesday get-together.

With a man like "Abe" Belcson advertising the club, we can expect almost any type of publicity. His first question when the charter members gathered was, "Shall we run the club to make some money?" Sane minds prevailed and the club will function solely as a technical association.

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GIRLS' GLEE CLUB

On Friday evening, November [illegible], a group of about 30 students will go to Worcester to hear the opera "Rigoletto", which is being presented by the Chicago Opera Company. Great enthusiasm has been displayed, fostered by the music-lovers of the Girls' Glee Club. Miss Perry has taken care of the tickets. This opportunity affords for many them first chance to see opera, with its wealth of beautiful music and artistic talent.

--ooOoo--

GAVALEERS

The "Gavs" are happy to welcome the following new members into the society: Bob Lee, Chet Howarth, Joe Rush, Hollis Moore, Jerry McDowell, Abe Belcson, Hector Patenaude, Bert Roth, and Dominic Baccaro.

Last Monday, these good men and true presented a lively entertainment for the edification of the older members who hearily enjoyed the program.

Next Monday, the older members will again enjoy the second degree of initiation. We cannot guarantee the same satisfaction for the neophytes.

The Gavaleer society appreciates the generous spirit behind the reception of its paper and hopes that the paper will continue to serve for the benefit of all.

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DEBATING

Last Monday, our Debating team traveled to Keene Teachers College. The members, Ray Lund, Ann Ward, and Ellen Funaiole, with Don McCaffrey as alternate, made a favorable showing, though the result was "no decision". The question, "Resolved, that the Federal government should adopt the policy of equalizing educational opportunity throughout the nation by means of annual grants to the several states for public elementary and secondary education."

A return engagement in our assembly has been negotiated.

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CLASS

JUNIORS

As yet, there are no definite plans made for the Junior Prom. The date has been set for February 5. We can expect the plans for this function to formulate in the near future.

Selection of rings is now occupying the time of the Juniors. In past years, comments were often made as to the advisability of having a standard school ring. This year such plans are again in motion and it is hoped that with the co-operation of the Freshmen and Sophomores it will be possible to introduce a standard school ring.

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SENIORS

Surely no one can claim that he had no chance to show his ability after January 14. By this time all are aware that this night is being set aside for the Saxifrage Entertainment. Every organization in the school will be represented The question arises, Won't there be overlapping of those participating? Not necessarily, because those taking part can select what he feels most inclined to do.

--ooOoo--

SOPHOMORES

President "Sailor Joe" Rush remarks that everything is sailing smoothly after the Hallowe'en party.

--ooOoo--

ART CLUB

Wednesday, November 21, marked the second meetin go the Art Club which was in the form of a social tended to the incoming members. Leo Glennon was in charge of all preparations and certainly did a good job and except for the lateness in the arrival of the refreshments, everything went off in "apple pie order". Just before the refreshments were served, however, the new members were given the opportunity of expressing their own conceptions of "Dream Walking", etc., on the blackboard.

Plans are now under way for an educational and inspirational trip to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, on or about December 4, providin the necessary arrangements can be made.

--ooOoo--

EPSILON PI TAU

EPSILON CHAPTER, EPSILON PI TAU held its November meeting on Thursday, November 8, in the men's rest-room Efforts were begun to secure some noted and interesting speaker to represent the chapter at the annual EPSILON PI TAU assembly which will be about the middle or last of February. Vice-president Henry Reckel submitted an enlarged drawing of the EPSILON PI TAU key which will be put in the form of a brass casting. This splendid and unique ensigner will be posted on the college bulletin to announce meetings.

President Teittinen was in charge of the evening's discussion which followed the regular business meeting. The discussion dealt mainly with a recent publication entitled "A Prospectus for Industrial Arts in Ohio".

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DRAMATIC CLUB

Don't forget December 13! "The Servant In The House" is going to be the best play that the Dramatic Club has yet put on. What's more, we are going to have a new set, designed by a commercial artist.

Last meeting, thanks to Miss Nixon, we had Mr. Hinteer of Brocton as guest speaker. He congratulated us on our play selection and encouraged us in the task of producing it. We hope that Mr. Hinteer will be here on the 13th to see our production.

--ooOoo--

STUDENT OPINION

We wish to remind you that the "GAVEL" is a student paper - open to the expression of ideas, compositions, and problems connected with our College. Address all communications to the "GAVEL", and leave at the General Office.

F.T.C. JVS 2 - Harvard JVS 0

The Fitchburg Teachers College Junior Varsity soccer team met the Harvard Junior Varsity team at Cambridge Monday and decisively outplayed them. Coach Spring used many men in this game so that he might get a line on his material for next year's varsity. Larry Turner, center halfback, scored both goals for T.C. - one in the opening period and the other in the fourth period. The second goal was the result of a well-executed play starting from Carey, to Waring, to Turner directly in front of the goal.

Moore and Anderson were outstanding defensively while Andrews and Carey played important parts in the offense.

BASKETBALL

Coach Anders Nelson called out all non-letter men and Freshmen last Tuesday. The practice consisted of passing, pivoting, and shooting. The second day Coach Nelson scrimmaged the following men: Forgues, McNeil, Blasetti, Mahoney, Ladner, Heins. This practice game helped the coach in cutting the squad Wednesday, and the following men survived the ax;

Jeffrey	Godek
Turner	Teittinen
Forgues	Naumnik
Blasetti	Ladner

Mahoney

The letter men of last year's championship team and those who survived the cut will report daily until after the Thanksgiving holiday when Coach Nelson will again cut the squad to 12 men.

Coach Nelson will practice his men at the State Armory next week in order that they will become accustomed to a large floor as T.C. opens its season with Worcester Tech in Worcester. The Coach intends to have a fast breaking offense, and he will have the first few practices consist of drills aimed to perfect such an offense

The tentative basketball squad consists of the following letter men from last year:

Andrews	Lahtinen
Johnson	Nelson
Fillback	McDowell

and

Blasetti	Forgues
Godek	Jeffrey
Ladner	Mahoney
Naumnik	Teittinen

Turner

SPORTS CHATTER

F.T.C. will have a hard schedule this year as it meets such teams as Worcester Tech, Holy Cross, and various teachers colleges in New England.

Fine spirit prevails among the non-letter men in practice.

W.A.A. NEWS

The W.A.A. has had a little difficulty with the weather and their activities have been curbed considerably. Soccer is the sport of the hour, and a round-robin has been schedules with an Orange and Black game for Monday. It ain't gonna rain no more...we hope!

THIS and THAT

by

B. Roth

Heard the latest "butcher" song? No, it isn't "Butcher Arms Around Me"; it's "Ox-tails For Stew". We hope no one else thought of that.

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Culpepper Collard comes forward with a lucid thought. Quote: "How's a poor south-paw to adapt himself to all these Commonwealth one, right-armed desk-chairs?" Unquote. The only solution which suggests itself at the present writing is that of sitting on the aforesaid desk-chairs in reverse. See what we mean? Address all other suggestions care of Mr. Collard.

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And that reminds us. We want to hear your sentiments and would be delighted to voice them through the medium of this column, should the

appear worthy of consideration; suggestions will be accepted in the spirit they are given. So if you have anything to say about anything (surely, you must!), a note left in Box 193 will make us aware of it.

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We have here a note from a doloreus young lady. Apparently her grief is so overpowering that it moves her to lament in verse:

Oh, my vanishing shoulders!
Oh, my knobby knees!
Oh, for a gymnasium suit
To cover all of these!

Shapely ones, pause for a moment in your graceful flight to drop condolences to this ill-starred maid in her unseemly plight. Or has some one got an extra blanket?

THE COUNTRY FAIR

The W.A.A. Conference has come and gone, but The Country Fair still lingers in our memories. This was the best party that your scribe has ever seen in school. It shows just what the school can do when Fitchburg's reputation is at stake. Those costumes! We're still laughing. There was enough atmosphere to expect to find a cow around any corner. Hickville Corner never had a night like it.

The Style Show nearly brought the house down, especially Elmore on that bike. The Salvation Army could use you Dolly just digging up old clothes. That hayseed accent featured by the sextet was too natural. We wonder?

A note of tragedy was injected by that gripping mellow-drama, "The Mortgage". We could not help weeping with the poor old folks who were about to lose their old homestead. Ah, the tragedy of life!

Did you have your fortune told, or was that just a gag to hold hands? Some of the customers stayed a long time, didn't they, Pop?

A word of thanks, a bouquet of orchids, and an acknowledgement of our debt to Kay Mannix and her assistants for the whole affair.

THE GAVEL RATTLES

Silence is golden, but we are off that standard.

Emil Johnson wasn't praying in front of the Central Hardware the other night. He was just copying a project. (Mr. Carpenter, note) We hope the boys like it.

A college education is a great thing. Some of the boys can tell time by the sun-dial at night. That is, with a little feminine assistance!

Certain senior soft seaps Swedish "Sweetie-Pie".

A house president not so far from here missed her "Wonderful One", but we guess that it's just the glove that's "Waring" out.

What girl in Miller has to mark "right" and "left" on her shoes?

Heard in the dining-hall, "That's not fish; it's salmon."

After conducting an extensive survey that Grafton Agriculturist has considerable data concerning an All-American girl. Ask him!

Does the paddling that Eddie Lynch got make him a Mohawk, or was it just good clean fun?

What sophomore P.A. man has rivaled "Mr. Wimpie" in consuming hamburgers in the dining hall?

What commuting Freshman co-ed is campaign manager for "Jeff"?

Mr. Albert Raymond, graduate of the Boston University School of Music, sang in our Assembly Tuesday morning. Besides being a singer, he is one of New England's golf pros.

Mr. Raymond informs us that he is teaching singing lessons in Fitchburg on Tuesdays and offers special rates to interested college students. Tel. Fitch. 4129 J.